GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3350
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PLAN TO EDUCATE FARMERS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any plan to educate the farmers to use mechanisation labour intensive technique and better farm inputs to compete against the multinational companies involved in the agricultural sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): Efforts for education of the farmers include the following :

(i) The Farm Machinery Training & Testing Institutes (FMT&TIs), functioning under administrative control of Agricultural Implements & Machinery Division and located at Budni (MadhyaPradesh), Hissar (Haryana), Garladinne (Andhra Pradesh) and Biswanath Chariali (Assam) have been set up with one of the objectives of Human Resource development through training/ dissemination of technical know-how in the selection, operation, repairs & maintenance and management of farm machinery. These FMT&TIshave been imparting training to the farmers, rural youths, technicians, retired/retiring defence personnel, nominees of the Central and State Governments etc. Besides, these Institutes have also been undertaking testing and performance evaluation of agricultural equipment so as to provide better services to the farmers. Further, the Government have also prescribed Minimum Performance Standards for tractors and power tillers in order to make available quality machines to the farmers. The facilities available at these Institutes are open to all the States/UTs in the country.

(ii) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has established 261 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in the country, the activities of which includes training of farmers to update their knowledge in modern agricultural technology. During the last one year these KVKs have organized 16,895 training programmes with the participation of 4.18 lakh farmers, farm women and rural youths. The KVKs also produced 2241 quintals of quality seeds and 24.47 lakhs of quality saplings/seedlings for availability to the farmers.

(iii) In order to supplement the efforts of the state govt. for increasing the crop productivity and production, the Crops Division has implemented following crop oriented centrally sponsored schemes:-

- Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat, Rice and Coarse Cereals Based Cropping System Areas (ICDP – Wheat, Rice and Coarse Cereals) since 1994-95.
- Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP)/ Technology Mission on Cotton.
- Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) since 1995-96.
- Special Jute Development Programme (SJDP).

Under these Programmes emphasis is laid on the transfer of improved Crop ProductionTechnologies through organization of field demonstration, farmers training. Besides, to motivate the farmers to adopt improved Crop Production Technologies incentives are provided through respective schemes on the use of inputs like certified/high yielding varieties/hybrid seeds, improved farm implements and sprinkler/drip irrigation system. From October 2000, these schemes have been Sub- summed under Macro-Management mode except Technology Mission on Cotton.

(iv) Innovations in Technology Dissemination (ITD) component of World Bank funded NationalAgricultural Technology Project (NATP) provides for pilot testing of new institutional arrangements in 28 districts in seven States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Orissa and Punjab.Under the project autonomous, flexible institutions named as Agricultural

Technology Management Agencies (ATMAs) have been constituted at district level representing various stakeholders concerned with agricultural development including farmers representatives. Through ATMA approach the issues like setting local level research and extension priorities, group approach to extension, capacity building of farmers and extension functionaries, promoting private sector partnership and participatory processes are addressed making the technology dissemination farmer driven and farmer responsive. Six State Agricultural Management and Extension Training Institutes (SAMETIs) are in operation in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Punjab, Orissa and Himachal Pradesh. These SAMETIs organise training courses for senior and middle level State officers in various subject matter areas where they are based and disseminate the latest agricultural technology to farmers covering farm mechanisation, use of better farming inputs and quality seeds etc.

(v) Under the scheme Training of Extension Personnel within India, National Level Training Courses of 8 days duration as well as state level collaborative training courses of 5 days duration for senior and middle level extension functionaries are organized to improve their technical competence in various disciplines of agriculture which include mechanisation, production of quality seeds and better use of farm inputs etc. The extension functionaries after getting training in the above areas, in turn provide advice to the farmers.

(vi) Under the component Exchange Visit of Farmers within the Country, Govt. of India provides hundred percent funding to States to arrange the visit of farmers in groups each consisting 20 farmers from one state to the other and vice-versa which involves an expenditure of Rs. 50,000/- per group per visit. The main objective of arranging such exchange visits of farmers is to facilitate the interaction of the farmers with their fellow farmers in developed areas to increase their knowledge and skills.

(vii) Under the scheme - Exchange visit of Extension Functionaries, the extension functionaries of one state make a visit to another developed state to have an interaction with fellow extension functionaries and scientists of the state to have additional exposure of latest agricultural technologies prevalent in that particular State. In this way, the extension functionaries are exposed to various technologies including use of farm mechanisation, application of better farm inputs and use of quality seeds etc. and in turn disseminate information to the farmers.

(viii) Under the Government of India Scheme -Agricultural Extension through Voluntary Organizations/ Farmer Organizations, 52 Non-Government Organizations and 17 Farmer Organizations have been supported for augmenting extension efforts.

(ix) The Ministry of Agriculture supports the states for organization of Farmers-Scientists Interactions at the district level and organising state level research − development interfaces

(x) Extension through vernacular print media is being supported to supplement extension efforts together with organization of kisan melas through the State Agricultural University.

(xi) Efforts are being made to strengthen extension services for farm women through central sector scheme as also externally aided projects in the States of Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka (Danish assisted) and Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh (Dutch assisted). United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) assisted Food Security Project has been initiated in selected States Women specific sub programmes with focus on empowerment farm women have been initiated.